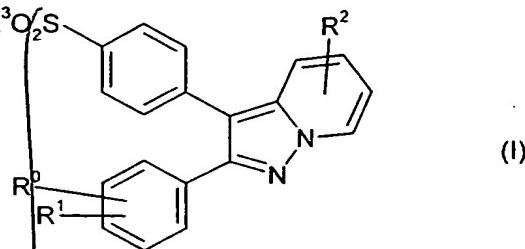


Claims

1. Compounds of formula (I)



and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof in which:

- 5 R^0 and R^1 are independently selected from H, halogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, or C₁₋₆alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;
- 10 R^2 is H, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆hydroxyalkyl, SC₁₋₆alkyl, C(O)H, C(O)C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and
- 15 R^3 is C₁₋₆alkyl or NH₂.
2. Compounds as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^0 and R^1 are independently H, halogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, or C₁₋₆alkoxy; R^2 is C₁₋₃alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R^3 is C₁₋₃alkyl or NH₂.
- 20 3. Compounds as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein R^0 and R^1 are independently H, F, Cl, C₁₋₃alkyl (e.g. methyl), or C₁₋₃alkoxy (e.g. ethoxy); R^2 is C₁₋₃alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms (e.g. trifluoromethyl); and R^3 is methyl or NH₂.
- 25 4. Compounds as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein R^0 is F, Cl, or C₁₋₃alkyl (e.g. methyl) or C₁₋₃alkoxy (e.g. ethoxy); R^1 is H; R^2 is C₁₋₃alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms (e.g. trifluoromethyl); and R^3 is methyl or NH₂.
5. Compounds as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein R^0 is at the 3- or 4- position of the phenyl ring; and R^2 is at the 6- position of the pyridine ring.

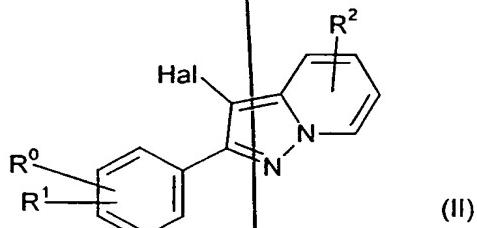
6. 4-[2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-
benzenesulfonamide;
2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-
pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
- 5 4-[2-(4-ethoxy-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-
benzenesulfonamide;
4-[2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-
benzenesulfonamide;
2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-
pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
- 10 4-(2-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl)-
benzenesulfonamide;
3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-2-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-
a]pyridine;
- 15 4-[2-(4-methyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-
benzenesulfonamide;
and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.
- 20 7. N-acetyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-
yl]benzenesulfonamide;
N-acetyl-4-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-
yl]benzenesulfonamide;
N-acetyl-4-[2-phenyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-
yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- 25 sodium salt of N-acetyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-
a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-(2-
methoxyacetyl)benzenesulfonamide;
- 30 4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-
propionylbenzenesulfonamide;
4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-
isobutyrylbenzenesulfonamide;
N-benzoyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-
yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- 35 methyl 4-[({4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-
yl]phenyl}sulfonyl)amino]-4-oxobutanoate;

- 4-[{4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonyl]amino]-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-pentanoylbenzenesulfonamide;
- 5 2-[{4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonyl]amino]-2-oxoethyl acetate;
- N-acetyl-4-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- 10 N-(2-chloroacetyl)-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- N-[2-(diethylamino)acetyl]-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- 15 methyl {4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonylcarbamate; and
- tert-butyl {4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonylcarbamate.
8. 4-[6-chloro-2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- 20 6-chloro-2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
- 4-[6-methyl-2-phenyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- 4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- 25 4-[2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- 4-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- 6-methyl-2-phenyl -3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
- 30 2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
- 2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
- 2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
- and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.

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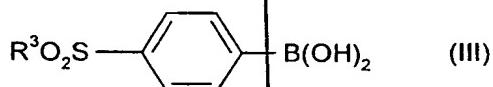
9. A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, which comprises:

(A) reacting a compound of formula (II)



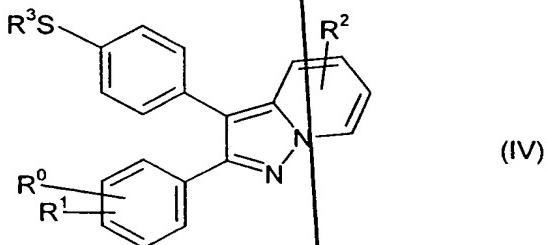
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or a protected derivative thereof, with a compound of formula (III)



or a protected derivative thereof; or

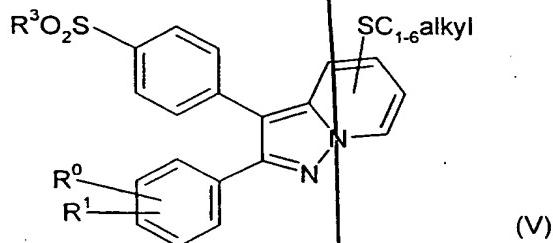
(B) where R^3 represents C₁₋₄alkyl, reacting a compound of formula (IV)



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or a protected derivative thereof with an oxidising agent; or

(C) where R^2 is C₁₋₆alkylsulphonyl, oxidising a compound of formula (V)

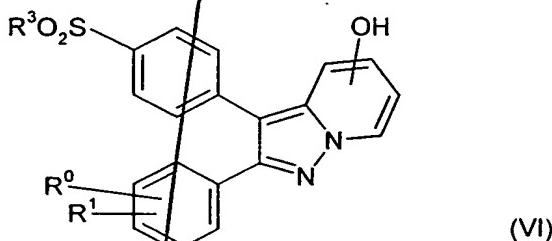


or a protected derivative; or

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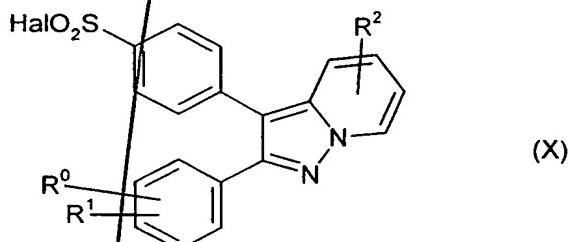
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(D) where R^2 is C_{1-6} alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, reacting a alcohol of formula (VI)



or a protected derivative thereof with a halofluoroalkane; or

5 (E) where R^3 is NH_2 , reacting a compound of formula (X)



with a source of ammonia under conventional conditions; or

(F) interconversion of a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); or

10 (G) deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (I);

and optionally converting compounds of formula (I) prepared by any one of processes (A) to (G) into pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.

15 10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8 in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

11. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8 for use in human or veterinary medicine.

12. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8 for use in the treatment of a condition which is mediated by selective inhibition of COX-2.
13. A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by selective inhibition of COX-2 which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8.
14. A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from an inflammatory disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8.
15. The use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8 for the manufacture of a therapeutic agent for the treatment of a condition which is mediated by selective inhibition of COX-2.
16. The use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8 for the manufacture of a therapeutic agent for the treatment of an inflammatory disorder.

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